

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 SS-15 PA-01 ICA-11 /088 W
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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6584
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 3645

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, BR
SUBJECT: SEA-LAND IN BRAZIL

REF: RIO 2875

1. ON AUGUST 14, MARATT MET WITH SUNAMAM'S SUPERINTENDENT MANOEL ABUD, WHO REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE SEA-LAND BEGIN ITS SERVICE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL. "THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO SEA-LAND. IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO STOP TALKING AND START ACTING," HE SAID. HE MENTIONED THAT NOW THAT THE COMPANY IS RESOLVED TO OPERATING ISO STANDARD CONTAINERS IN BRAZIL, HAVING BEEN THOROUGHLY REBUFFED BY THE GOB IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO USE THIRTY-FIVE FOOTERS HERE, IT SHOULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH MOORE-MCCORMACK IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN EAST COAST USA/ BRAZIL SERVICE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO RESOLUTION 5246, WHICH PROHIBITS TRANS-SHIPMENT IN THE TRADE WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORITY FROM SUNAMAM, ABUD INSISTED THAT THE WAY TO SOLVE THE PUERTO RICO TRANS-

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SHIPMENT PROBLEM IS TO EITHER BRING PUERTO RICO INTO THE CONFERENCE OR TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE PUERTO RICO/BRAZIL CONFERENCE. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS A COMMERCIAL PROBLEM FOR THE STEAMSHIP LINES TO SOLVE; NOTWITHSTANDING, THE COMMANDANTE SUGGESTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL "DO WHAT HE CAN" TO CONVINCE THE U.S. LINES TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER HIS, ABUD'S, PROPOSALS, AND HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT

THE BRAZILIAN LINES WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE ADOPTION OF EITHER OF HIS SUGGESTIONS SINCE "THEIR SHARE OF CARGO WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED." THE SUNAMAM SUPERINTENDENT CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS TALKING ONLY ABOUT THOSE CARGOES ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT IN NO INSTANCE WOULD JAPANESE, EUROPEAN OR OTHER FOREIGN ORIGINATING CARGOES BOUND FOR BRAZIL BE PERMITTED TO BE TRANSSHIPPED AT PUERTO RICO. AND HE CONCLUDED, "ONCE SEA-LAND BEGINS ITS SERVICE, WE CAN TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT 5246. I THINK THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT AGREEABLE TO EVERYONE."

COMMENT: ABUD APPEARED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN SEEING SEA-LAND BEGIN SERVICE IN BRAZIL BEFORE HIS TERM AS SUPERINTENDENT EXPIRES IN A FEW MONTHS. HE INDICATED THAT RELATIONS ON ALL SIDES ARE NOW OPEN AND FRIENDLY AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM CONTINUE SO. THE COMMANDANTE IS APPARENTLY RESIGNED TO LEAVING HIS POST WITH THE ADVENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ALTHOUGH HE IS OBVIOUSLY UNDER PRESSURE TO REMAIN. BUT HE SEEMS TO FEEL THAT HE HAS LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, TO GAIN BY REMAINING BEYOND HIS CURRENT TERM.
DEXTER

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